

RSU #63 Board Meeting
Date: October 28, 2019
Location: Eddington Elementary School
Minutes

Members Present:

Town of Eddington: Charles Baker, Jr., Steven Carr, and Christina McLeod

Town of Holden: Gavin Robinson, John Hutchins, Heather Charity, and Holly Whitmore

Town of Clifton: Linda Graban

Superintendent of Schools: Susan M. Smith

Chair, John Hutchins called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

Motion by Heather Charity with a second by Christina McLeod to enter into Executive Session to review Superintendent Evaluation data (Board Members and Community Members) pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A).

Roll Call Vote: 5 Yes; 0 No

Gavin Robinson arrived at 6:04pm; Linda Graban arrived at 6:05pm; and Steve Carr arrived at 6:06pm.

Public session resumed at 6:39pm. A flag salute was conducted and a moment of silence was observed. A flag salute was conducted and a moment of silence was observed.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Christina McLeod with a second by Heather Charity to approve the minutes from the September 23, 2019 Board Meeting.

Discussion: Gavin Robinson noted an error in the date on page 3 of 3 under Superintendent Evaluation and Feedback Process. The year 2018 should be 2019.

Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed with correction of year on page 3 of 3

Recognition and/or Awards of Students, Staff, and Others: Superintendent Smith turned the floor over to Richard Modery to recognize the fall scholar athletes. He advised there were 60 students participating in soccer and 25 students participating in cross-country. The Girls' "A" Soccer team had an undefeated season and won the league championship game. The Boys' and Girls' "A" Soccer teams were awarded the Sportsmanship Award. This award is voted for after each game based on the sportsmanship of players, coaches, and fans. Mr. Modery congratulated all the athletes and thanked the coaches for their time and hard work this fall. Winter sports sign-ups have been posted for Basketball, Cheering, and Chess. Mr. Modery is expecting 80-90 students to participate in winter sports.

Superintendent Smith thanked all administrators for their contributions to Facebook post materials. Most recently, the Civil Rights Team was featured for their Day of Welcome.

Acceptance of Gifts/Donations: Superintendent Smith turned the floor over to Don Spencer, who announced Krista Rae Helms received \$600 from Donors Choose for social and emotional learning tools and Sarah Lane received funding for a camera from Donors Choose.

Presentation: Superintendent Smith introduced Jake Morgan, Transportation and Facilities Director. Mr. Morgan directed Board Members to the hand out in their folders. He first discussed the pick-up and drop-off times for each bus. The bus and van inventory and mileage were discussed. Applications will be submitted to the state for replacement of qualifying high-mileage buses. Mr. Morgan discussed the fuel cost and usage amounts. There is minimal difference in miles per gallon between diesel and gas. Mr. Morgan stated the diesel buses are troublesome during winter months as they freeze up and require more maintenance than gas buses. As new buses are purchased, he is opting for gas. Mr. Morgan reviewed the garage lease cost starting in 1975 and going through 2022.

Questions and Comments from the Board: Gavin Robinson asked if the new buses were more fuel efficient. Mr. Morgan advised they are. Mr. Hutchins asked if the goal was to replace one or two buses per year. Mr. Morgan advised that one was the goal. Mr. Hutchins asked how often the buses were run at capacity. Mr.

Morgan stated they are fuller in the mornings then after school. Our goal is to not have any students on the bus for longer than an hour. Full buses take longer, especially for the distances we have to travel.

Questions and Comments from the Public: None

Dates of Next Committee Meeting:

Curriculum Committee: Monday, November 4, 2019 at 3:30pm, Holbrook

Student Success Committee: Tuesday, November 5, 2019 at 3:30pm, Holbrook

Policy Committee: Tuesday, November 5, 2019 at 6:00pm, Holbrook

Facilities Advisory Committee: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 6:00pm, Holbrook

Budget & Finance Committee: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 3:00pm, Holbrook

Budget and Finance: Nothing to add to Business Manager Report. Nothing to add to the Budget and Finance Committee Report. John Hutchins opened the floor for discussion of the Audit and Uncommitted Balance Forward. Kelly Theriault, Business Manager advised the audit went well. The Management Letter will remain mainly unchanged. The District is again over the 3% Rule. That amount has been used in recent years to offset the upcoming budget year. We are lowering the dollar amount, but not quick enough. Budget and Finance Committee has discussed assigning all but 2% of the undesignated funds. The Board can assign a dollar amount or percentage to a purpose. Ms. Theriault talked with other districts and found their Boards assign funds to the next year budget, not to a specific category. Discussion took place on options of assignment of funds.

John Hutchins asked for a motion to assign the undesignated fund balance above 2% to the General Fund of the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget. Motion by Heather Charity with a second by Steve Carr.

Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Smith advised the Board that Ed Daly from Energy Systems Group (ESG) reached out to Jake Morgan recently. Mr. Morgan directed Mr. Daly to Superintendent Smith. Mr. Daly advised Ms. Smith that Don Bresnahan is no longer an employee of ESG. Mr. Daly would like the opportunity to sit down with Ms. Smith and Mr. Morgan to discuss their perspective of ESG. Ms. Smith asked for Board approval to talk with Mr. Daly. Mr. Hutchins approved of the meeting, but not doing business with ESG at this time. The Board agreed with Mr. Hutchins and granted Ms. Smith permission to talk with Ed Daly of ESG.

Superintendent Smith also added Heather Charity and herself attended the Maine School Management Association (MSMA) Fall Conference recently. There was conversation around the new Maine laws that do not line up with Federal Special Education laws. There were many conversations on technology, communication, and security. Ms. Charity enjoyed the Library Expansion session and felt having a Library Teacher on staff would be beneficial to the students.

RSU #63 Chair's Report: John Hutchins advised he attended the MSMA Board Chair Conference in Augusta recently. He thanked the Board for being open to discussion and working together with the common goal of doing what is in the best interest of the students. He found that not all school boards openly communicate or work together well. Mr. Hutchins stated he was proud of the RSU 63 Board of Directors.

Mr. Hutchins made a recommendation to move the date of the May Board meeting in order to meet posting time-lines required by the budget process. The Board agreed moving the May meeting from the 18th to the 11th was acceptable.

Acceptance of Reports: Motion to approve written and verbal reports from Administrators, Committees, and Superintendent by Steve Carr with a second by Christina McLeod.

Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed

Old Business:

Facilities Advisory Committee Update: Charles Baker, Jr. invited all Board members to the next Facilities Advisory Committee. The committee has been reviewing the work done by Carpenter Associates and prioritizing the needs. Steve Carr advised the public voted to maintain the three schools and that needs to be the focus of the long-term planning. Mr. Baker recommends the Board spend more on facilities needs if that

is the long-term plan. Mr. Hutchins felt the Board needs to plan carefully. He felt the Board should start small for next year, educate the public on the facilities needs in preparation for a larger budget increase or Bond the following year. Mr. Baker felt the safety concerns are what should be addressed first. Superintendent Smith referred the Board to the handout of priority one items for each school. Discussion took place on associated costs. Superintendent Smith and Mr. Morgan are meeting with Randy Bragg of Carpenter Associates on October 31st. Superintendent Smith asked if the November 12, 2019 Facilities meeting date worked for the Board and if the public tours are something the Board wanted to move forward with. Mr. Hutchins felt the tours would be a great way to show the public why three companies have now said the District needs approximately \$14,000,000 in repairs. Mrs. Smith and Mr. Morgan will look at the calendar and bring suggestions back to the Board for these tours.

New Business:

Policy to Rescind: BGA – Policy Development Procedure: The language from this policy has been added to policy BGB – Policy Adoption.

Motion by Christina McLeod with a second by Gavin Robinson to rescind policy BGA – Policy Development Procedure.

Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed

Policy to Approve: BGB – Policy Adoption; EBCA – Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan; EBCC – Bomb Threats; EEAAA – School Vehicle Operating Procedures; and IHBH – Alternative Education Programs: Christina McLeod, policy committee chair, advised there was very little grammatical changes to these policies. Mr. Robinson and Mr. Carr recommended a few small changes. The Board agreed.

Motion by Heather Charity with a second by Christina McLeod to approve policies BGB – Policy Adoption; EBCA – Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan; EBCC – Bomb Threats; EEAAA – School Vehicle Operating Procedures; and IHBH – Alternative Education Programs with the recommended changes.

Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed

Personnel Actions:

Resignations: None

Reassignments: Samantha Smith, Substitute Van Driver to Substitute Bus Driver

Elections: None

Appointments: Teresa Maybury – Substitute; Steve Goulette, After School Coordinator; Nikki Goss, Peter Walsh, Jacob Gould, Melissa Egolf, Maddy Roberts, Ashley Bean, and Monica Norris – After School Instructors; Robert Merritt, Boys “A” Basketball Coach; Ryan Gideon, Boys “B” Basketball Coach; Chris Nile, Girls “A” Basketball Coach; Audra Leland, Cheering Coach.

Searches: Searches continue for Substitutes, Girls “B” Basketball Coach, Ed Tech II or III at Holbrook Middle School, and Chess Coach.

Questions and Comments from the Public: None

Adjournment: At 7:56pm a motion was made by Charles Baker, Jr. with a second by Heather Charity to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 8 Approved; 0 Opposed

Respectfully submitted by,



Susan M. Smith

RSU #63 Superintendent/Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Approved: December 2, 2019